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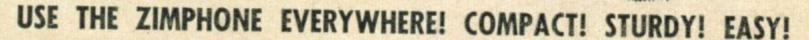
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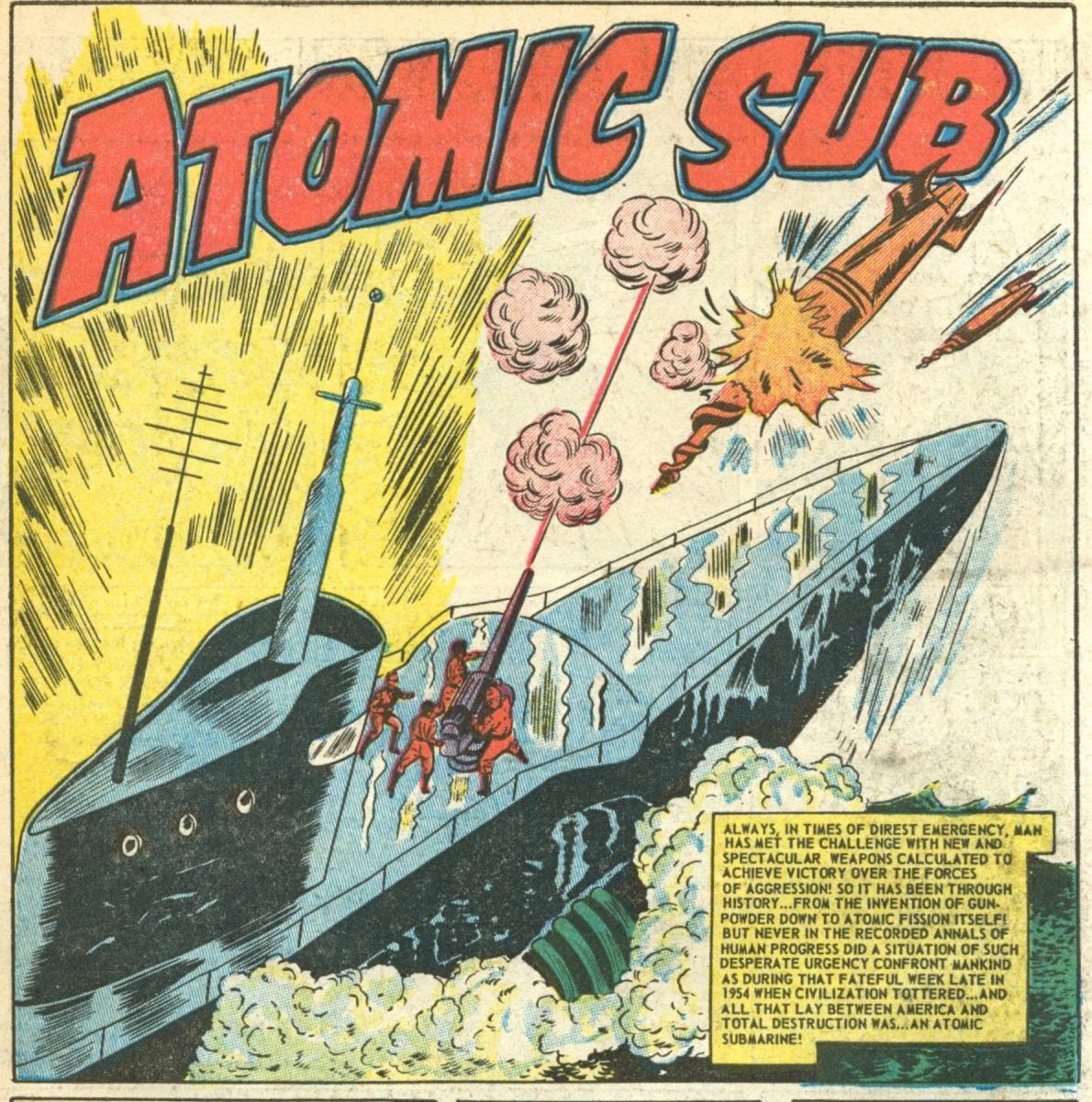
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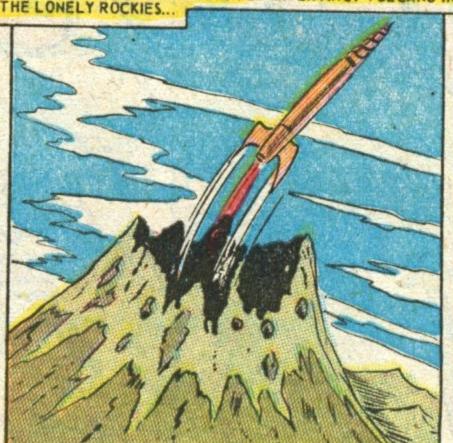
SO REMEMBER, EVERYONE OF YOU---IF YOU'RE EVER IN A FIX WHERE PRESIDENTIAL OR NATIONAL SECURITY SEEMS AT STAKE---AND YOU NEED HELP FAST---- CONTACT THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS! EITHER WE'LL HELP YOU WITH THE ATOMIC SUB ITSELF---OR USE OUR SPECIAL POWER TO COMMANDER ANYTHING IN AMERICA IN BEHALF OF PUBLIC SAFETY!

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YES, THERE WERE MANY WHO THOUGHT THIS WAY...WHO
QUESTIONED THE WORTH OF THE TOP LEVEL, ALL-POWERFUL
SECURITY FORCE WHICH COMMANDER BILL BATTLE HEADED!
BUT THERE WERE MENACES OUT OF THIS WORLD, WHICH
CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE FORCES COULDN'T HANDLE!
MENACES LIKE THIS, FOR INSTANCE...WHICH, ON DECEMBER 17,
ROARED FROM OUT THE CRATER OF AN EXTINCT VOLCANO IN



THERE WAS ONLY ONE TO SEE, IT
LATER DEVELOPED...A CHILD WHO SPIED
THE STRANGE INTRUDERS BEFORE THEY
VANISHED IN THE STRATOSPHERE...



BUT WHATEVER CHANCE THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN OF A WARNING WENT GLIMMERING! WHO WOULD BELIEVE A CHILD... AN IMAGINATIVE CHILD?

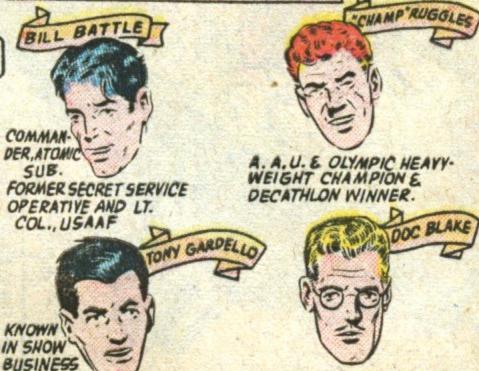
B-BUT I SAW IT---HONEST I SAW DON'T LIE TUH

ME:...CONSARNED KID...HE'S
GOT TOO DURNED

MUCH IMAGINATION



THAT NIGHT, THE SKIES HELD A STRANGE, A DEADLY
MENACE...SPEEDING EASTWARD, EASTWARD! AND THERE,
UNAWARE OF THE MIGHTY CHALLENGE THEY WOULD
SOON BE CALLED UPON TO MEET, THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS
BUSIED THEMSELVES WITH ROUTINE TASKS...



AS"GARDELLO

ESCAPE ARTIST.

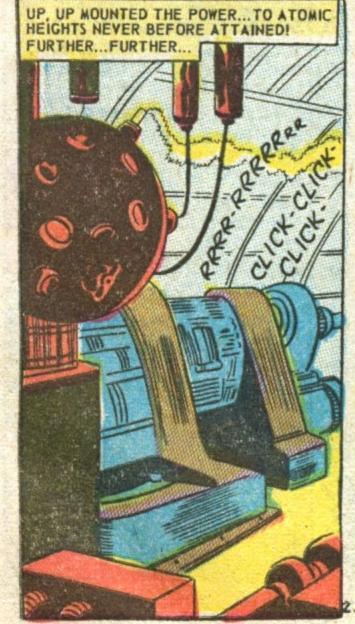
THE GREAT ... HOUDINI -TYPE

SCIENTIFIC EXPERT.
GREATEST AMERICAN AUTHORITY, ATOMIC FISSION.

THEY WERE ABOARD THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE...

THIS NEW ATOMIC ENGINE OF MINE SHOULD MAKE THE SUB FASTER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER! MATTER OF FACT, I'VE GOT ANOTHER IN MY WORKSHOP THAT'S ALMOST FINISHED WHICH MAY BE EVEN BETTER WHOA, DOC. THAN THIS! ONE AT A TIME!











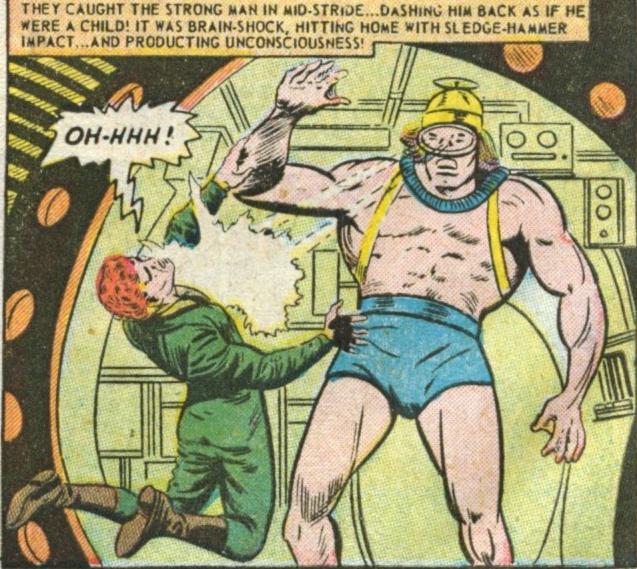


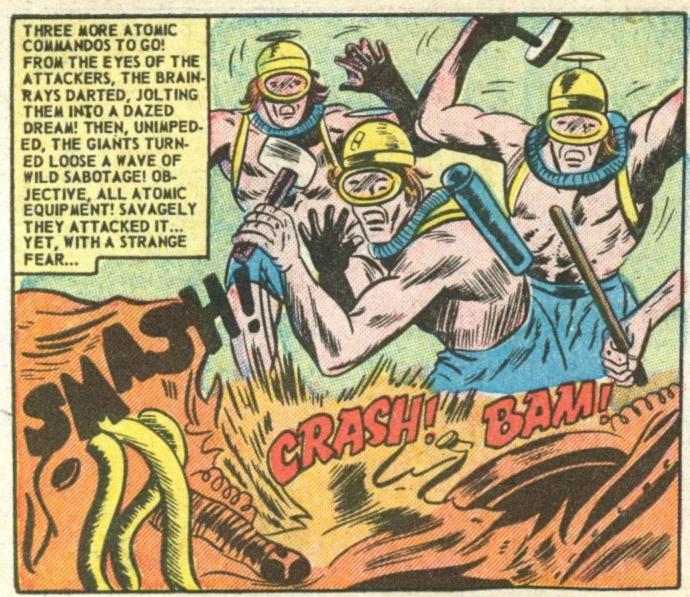




THE FIERY JET STOPPED CHAMP BUT MOMENTARILY BUT AS HE CHARGED FORWARD AGAIN, HIS CORNERED FOE HAD A NEW TACTIC! FROM HIS LUMINOUS EYES, TWIN RAYS SHONE FORTH...















HOLY SMOKE, NOW I REMEMBER! THOSE

CHARACTERS WERE STANDING OVER ME.



DOC. THIS SUB'S THE CENTRAL FACTOR IN AMERICA'S



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

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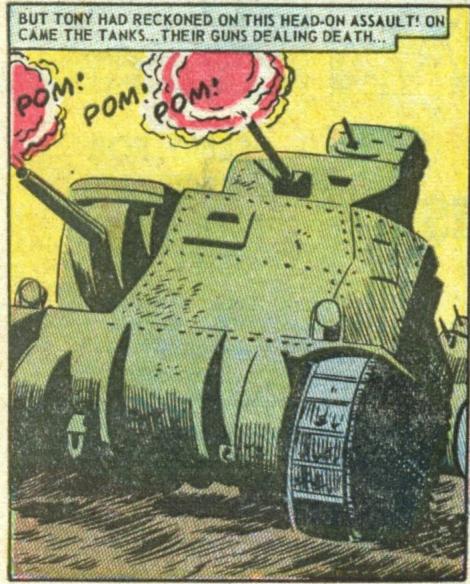


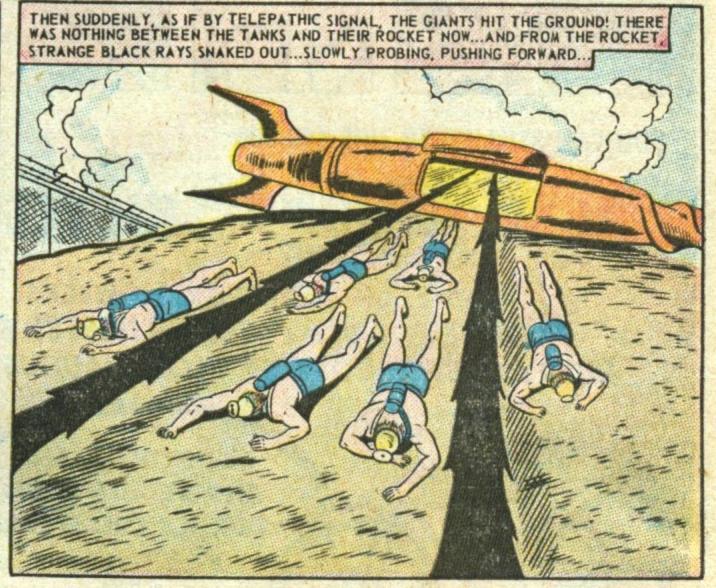
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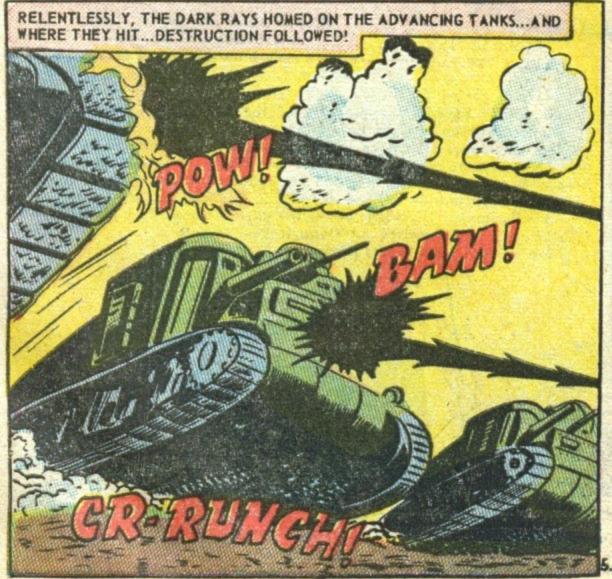


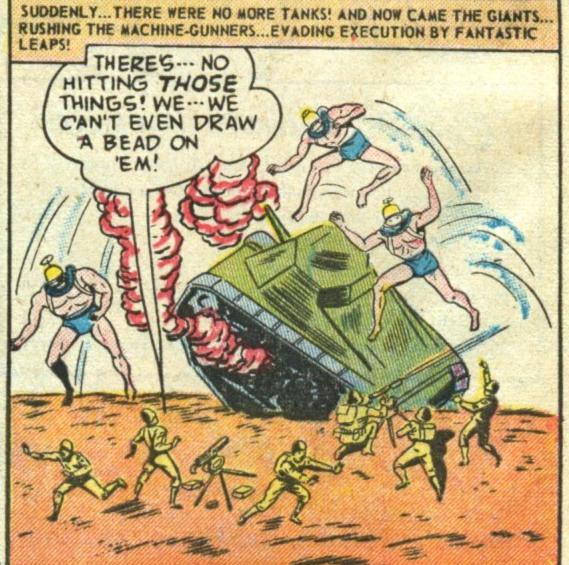








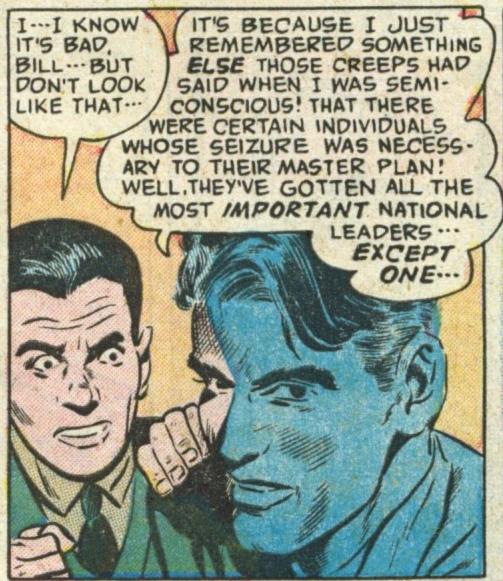


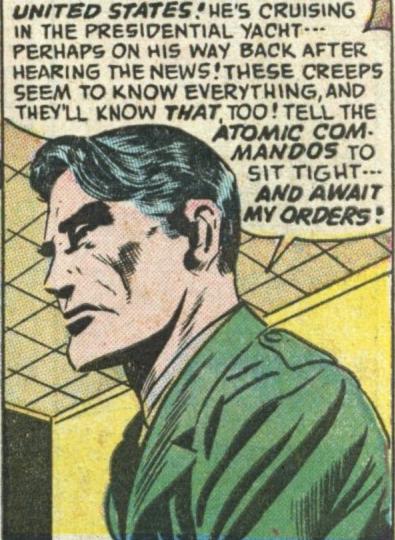












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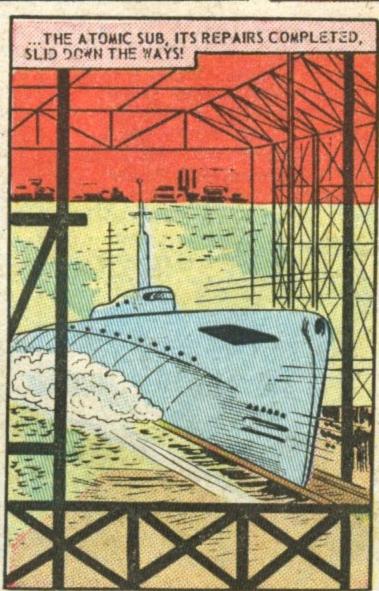




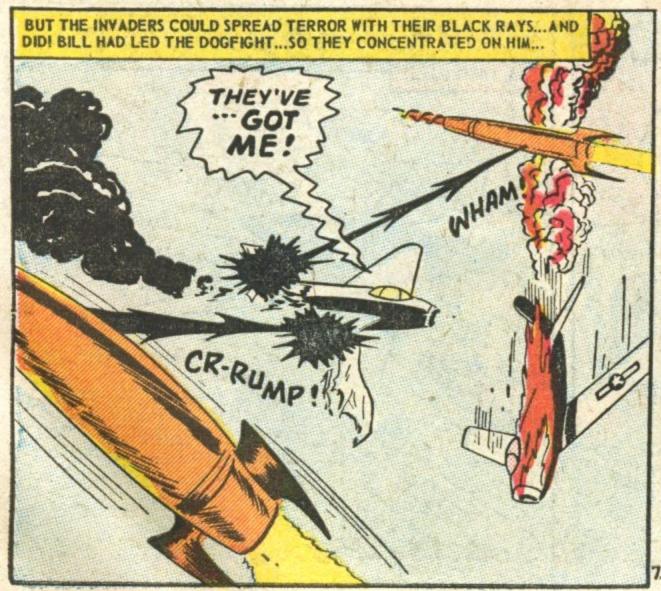






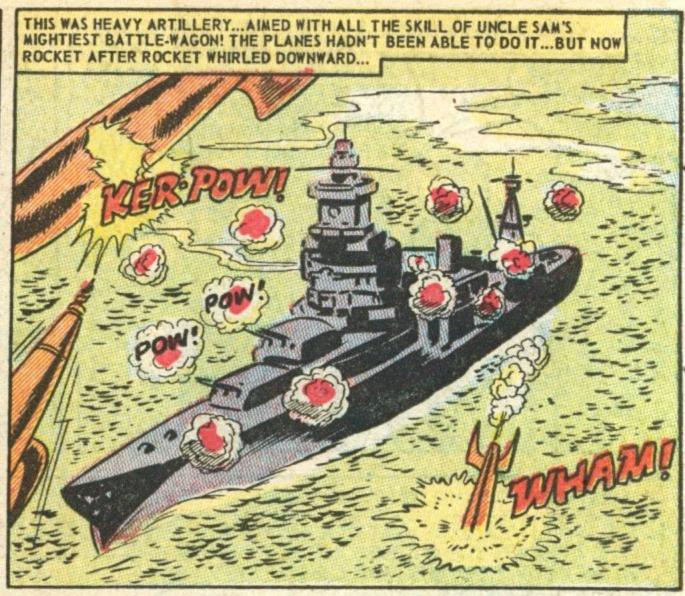
















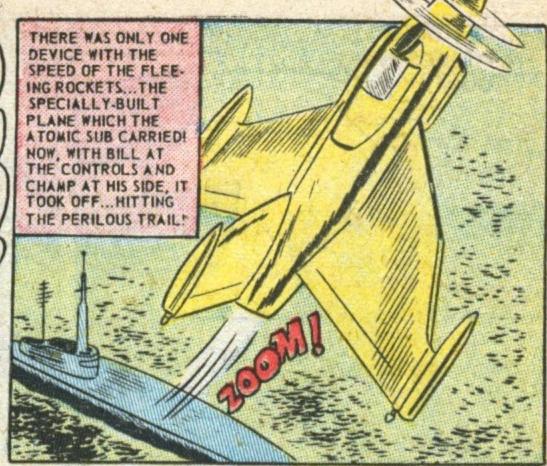


THE ENEMY KNEW THE CALIBRE OF ITS OPPONENT!

















INSTALLMENT. WITHIN THIS YERY ISSUE!



Winner Loses

TURN back the clock to the year 1854—
a century ago. America was young then, and machines and mechanical contrivances were, for the most part, in their infant stage. Let's take submarines, for example. Oh, they'd been talked about and theorized over aplenty, and it had even gotten to the point of a few crude attempts being made—but that was all there was to it. As far as an efficient and workable submarine went, it was a joke. But you couldn't prove it by either Fred Manners or George Bulkely.

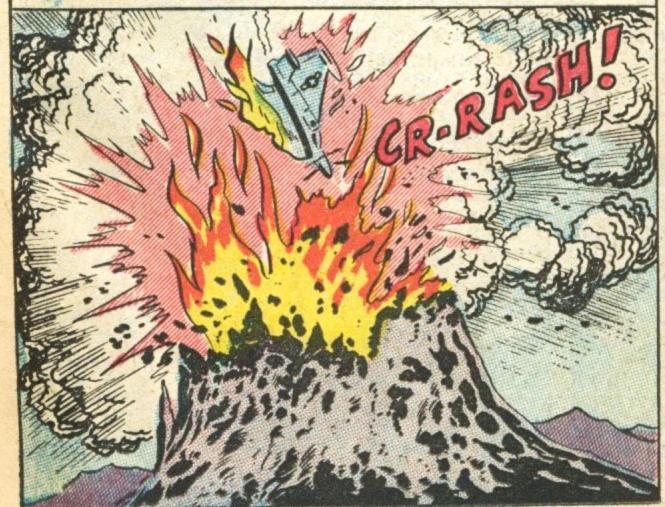
The men were rivals in more ways than one. To begin with, both were vitally interested in creating an underseas craft that worked. Further, both were enamored of beautiful Mary Anson, one of the loveliest girls in New York State. But she found it difficult to pick between two men equally young, handsome and ambitious—and so George Bulkely came to Fred Manners with a proposition. "We'll both lose out unless one of us steps aside," he said, "so let's make it a contest! As soon as we both complete our submarines, we'll make a test dive off Bradley Beach—and the one who stays down longest gets a clear field with her!"

Fred agreed—though in his heart, he knew he shouldn't. He didn't have the money, the research or manufacturing facilities that his rival possessed, and therefore, the chances of him building as efficient an underseas craft were not nearly as good. But within him, there burned the hope that labor, inspiration and imaginative planning would win out for him. The boat he was building was wrought of heavy, solid oak, joined well and skillfully. Its tanks, which sucked in water to dive and cleared for ascent, were carved by hand with loving care. There was but one flaw-one which Fred recognized. That was the small size of the sub. Designed as a one-man affair, it couldn't hold any large quantity of airbut the hope was that since the crew was comprised of Fred alone, not much air would be consumed—and the sub could stay down for a goodly period. Fred even allowed himself to grow optimistic-until the day of the contest dawned, and, for the first time, he saw the submarine which George Bulkely had built. His heart sank as he saw a sleek, polished craft at least three times the size of his own, gleaming and expensively wrought. He saw the pity in Mary's eyes as she made the inevitable comparison, and flinched at George's mocking words. "Expect to beat me with that?" the man sneered. "This isn't a baby-judging contest, you know! My sub's a professional job—carries a crew of six!"

"I'll still stay down longer," retorted Fred bravely. "After all, I don't have to worry about air for that many men!" He saw a sudden thoughtful, scheming look come into George's eyes as he turned away. There was no time for further verbal sparring-it was time for the contest! At a given signal, both submarines dived cleanly. Fred listened to the rush of water in his tanks, breathing shallowly in the darkness. He wouldn't risk a light—that took oxygen! Down, down, down-the pressure on his ears increasing relentlessly! And now, at last, he was resting on the bottom, settling down to wait George out. He peered through a porthole into the dim gray depths-and gasped in horror. There was the hulk of George's submarine, bearing down on him at full speed. It wasn't an accident—it couldn't be an accident, the rending crash that followed. Fred was thrown helter-skelter across the small interior. Halfdazed, his mind in a whirl, he checked the craft for injuries. A slight seeping of water at one of the seams filled him with horrorbecause it meant that within a matter of minutes at the outside, the craft would be swamped and he would find a watery grave. Desperately he lunged for his crude controls, praying that they would respond. A blessed sound came to him—the gurgling of water being forced from the tanks—and in response, the craft lifted from the bottom and slowly surged upwards, towards the surface and safety. Yes, Fred Manners lived to tell the tale. And George? Well, he won the betbecause his submarine stayed down longer. The only trouble was that he never came up to collect, because the very collision whereby he had attempted to put Fred out of the running opened the plates of his own craft, and all aboard perished by drowning. And so it was that Fred won his Mary, and lived to become one of America's greatest pioneers in underwater craft. His contributions were legion, paving the way for much of America's later progress, culminating in the mighty atomic submarine itself. Which was quite a record—for a man whose first craft had lost a historic bet!

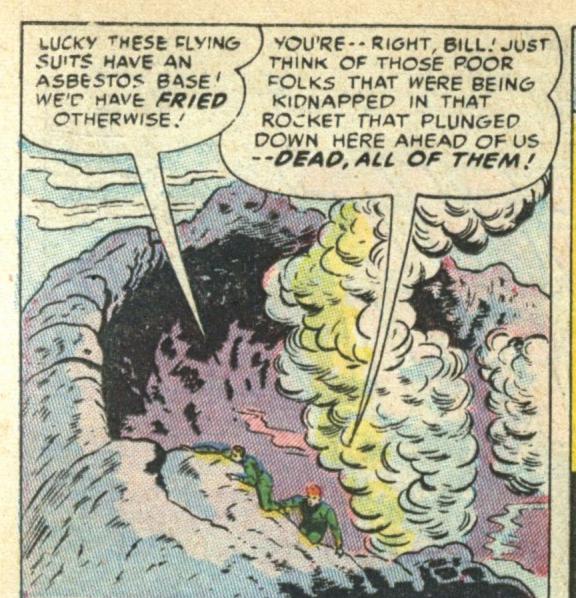
SUPPOSE YOU WERE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.. AND FOUND YOUR NATION CONFRONTED WITH AN AWFUL ENERGENCY THAT DWARFED EVEN AMERICA'S MIGHTY DEFENSE FORCES! SUPPOSE THE LIVES OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD FROM COAST TO COAST HUNG ON YOUR DECISION... WHICH WAY WOULD YOU TURN? YOU'D BE GLAD, IN SUCH A MOMENT OF CRISIS, TO BE ABLE TO CALL ON THE GREATEST GROUP OF FIGHTING SPECIALISTS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN... THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS! IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN HOW THEY OPERATE... AND WATCH THEM HARNESS THE VAST POWERS OF MODERN SCIENCE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR YOUR SURVIVAL AND MINE... THEN FOLLOW THEM AS THEY CLEAVE THROUGH STRANGE AND STORMY SEAS IN THE ...

THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN EVEN DESTINY HANGS IN THE BALANCE...WHEN THE MIND, SHOCKED, TURNS AWAY IN THE FACE OF DISASTER! THIS WAS SUCH A MOMENT... AS A TERRIFIC VOLCANIC EXPLOSION RIPPED ASUNDER COMMANDER BILL BATTLE'S PLANE...AND DEATH REACHED FOR TWO BRAYE MEN ON WHOM THEIR COUNTRY DEPENDED SO GREATLY...



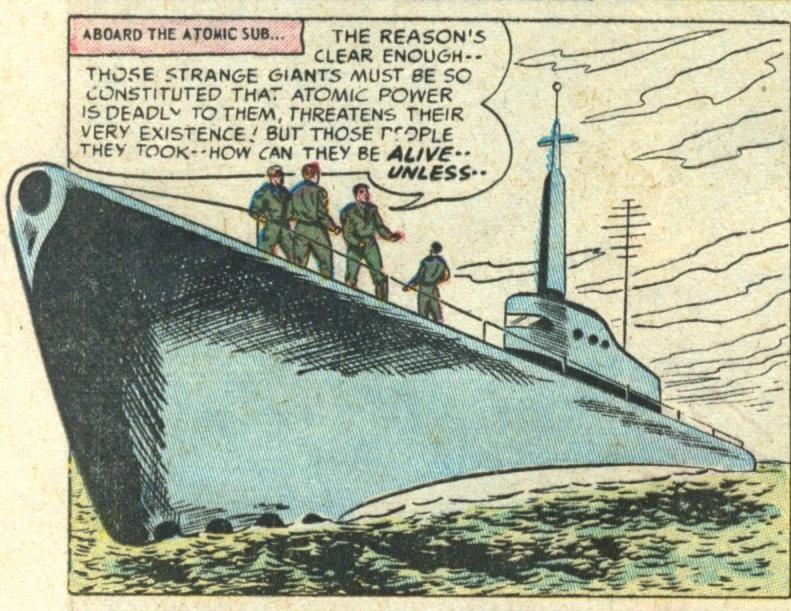
BUT FATE MANIFESTS ITSELF IN QUEER WAYS! WHAT HAPPENED THEN MAY HAVE BEEN A ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE...BUT IT FOLLOWED PERFECTLY NATURAL LAWS! THE BLAST FROM OUT THE CRATER HALTED THE DOWNWARD IMPETUS OF THE PLANE ...AND A LUCKY LEDGE DID THE REST!





OF COURSE...THEY HAD TO BE DEAD! THAT'S WHY IT CAME AS SUCH A STUNNING SURPRISE, DAYS LATER...THAT WEIRD MESSAGE FROM SOME UNKNOWN SOURCE, WRITTEN IN LETTERS OF FLAME ACROSS THE SKIES THEMSELVES...CAUSING NEAR PANIC THROUGHOUT THE NATION...

YOUR KIDNAPPED LEADERS STILL LIVE!
PLEDGE NEVER TO USE ATOMIC POWER AND THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU









YES, IT ALL CHECKED! THE GIANTS HAD TO COME FROM SOME POINT NEAR ENOUGH TO BE AFFECTED BY OUR ATOMIC RADIATIONS...IT COULDN'T BE ANOTHER PLANET! THEIR BODIES, ACCUSTOMED TO RESIST FIRE...THE DRILLS ON THEIR ROCKETS, TO BORE FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH UPWARDS...AND DOWN AGAIN...

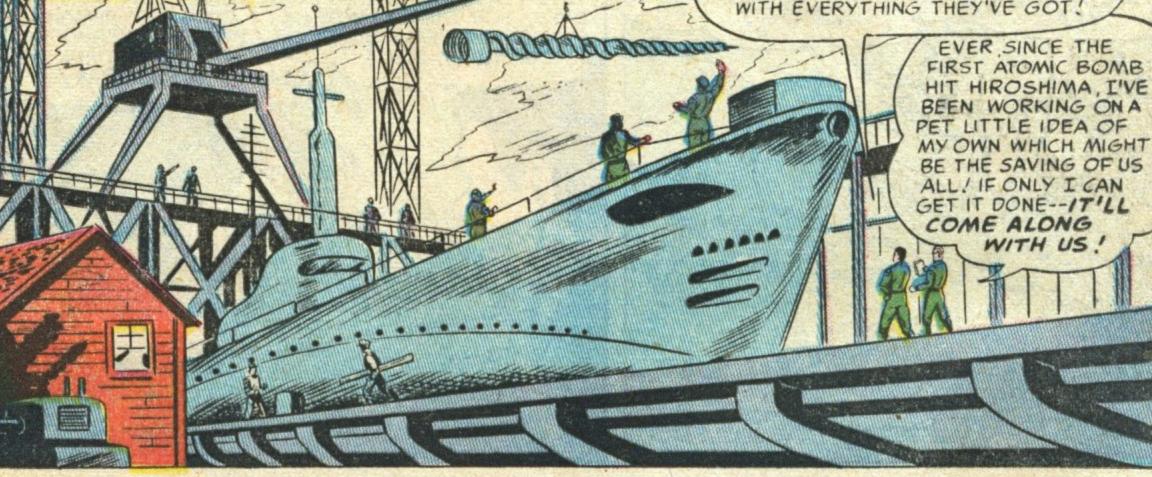
RIGHT! THEY MUST HAVE PICKED THAT CRATER BECAUSE IT WAS A DEEP FLAW IN THE EARTH'S CRUST! THAT ONE ROCKET RETURNED SAFELY, I'M BETTING -- AND THE ERUPTION WAS JUST A RELEASE OF ACCUMULATED GASES FROM BENEATH WHICH MARKED ITS PASSING!



IN -- IN THAT CASE, WE'RE LICKED! THERE'S NO WAY TO GET AT THEM DOWN THERE! YOU'RE FORGETTING THE GREATEST SOURCE OF POWER IN THE WORLD, SIR -- THE ATOMIC SUB! ATOMIC COMMANDOS REPORTING FOR DUTY, MR. PRESIDENT -- WE'LL TAKE IT DOWN OR DIE TRYING! -----

IT WASN'T AS SIMPLE AS SAYING IT, OF COURSE! A MIGHTY SOURCE OF ENERGY WAS AVAIL-ABLE FOR THE STUPENDOUS TASK AHEAD...BUT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS THAT IT BE LEASH-ED TO THE PROPER DEVICE! THE WORLD'S MOST GIGANTIC DRILL, TEMPERED TO DIAMOND HARDNESS! FRANTICALLY, THE PROJECT WAS RUSHED TOWARDS COMPLETION ... WITH SWARMS OF MEN WORKING 'ROUND THE CLOCK ...

SO A SURPRISE RAID SCOUTS OUT THEIR STRENGTH -- AND WE MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO RESCUE OUR KIDNAPPED PEOPLE! THEN WHAT? THEY JUST STRIKE BACK AT US WITH EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT!



IF ONLY HE COULD GET IT DONE! IT CALLED FOR DAYS AND NIGHTS OF EFFORT, WHILE THE SUB-MARINE NEARED COMPLETION ...



UH-UH, TONY! JUST LET'S AW, C'MON, HOPE THAT DOC! CAN'TCHA WE NEVER HAVE TO EVEN GIVE US A HINT USE IT! WHAT IT IS ?

AND FINALLY ...

ALL WAS IN READINESS NOW! WITH THE HOPES AND FEARS OF THE NATION HANGING IN THE BALANCE, THE ATOMIC SUB SLID DOWN THE WAYS...READY FOR WHATEVER LAY AHEAD!



THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS SOUGHT A NEW WAY INTO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH ... NOT THE SAME VOLCANO THROUGH WHICH THE INVADERS HAD MADE THEIR WAY, FOR THAT ROUTE MIGHT BE GUARDED! THEY FOUND IT IN AN EXTINCT CRATER, FAR BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN...



THEY ENTERED...AND WITH A FIERCE, SUSTAINED ROAR, THE HUGE DRILL TOOK OVER! THIS WAS ATOMIC POWER IN PURE AND CONCENTRATED FORM! MILE AFTER MILE AT EARTH-SHAKING SPEED...DOWN...DOWN...DOWN!



VIBRATION...VIBRATION...TEARING AT THE EARS, JARRING THE BACKBONE UNTIL A MAN COULD SCREAM! IT WAS MORE THAN HUMAN FLESH COULD TOLERATE...



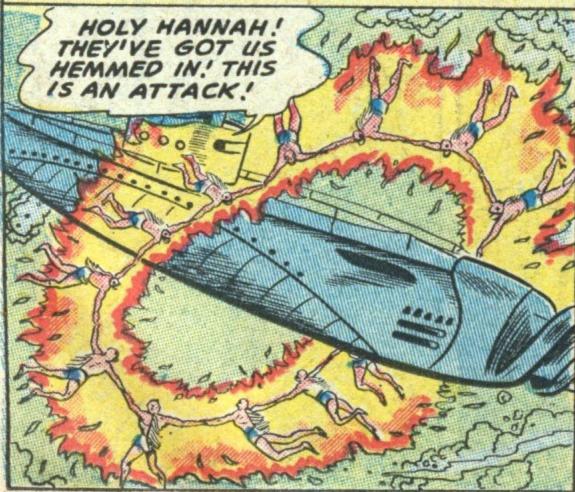
THEN, SUDDENLY, THE AWFUL WHIRRING CEASED... THE TREMORS VANISHED! THEY HAD BROKEN THROUGH INTO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH...AND WERE FLOATING, FREE, IN A BOILING SEA!



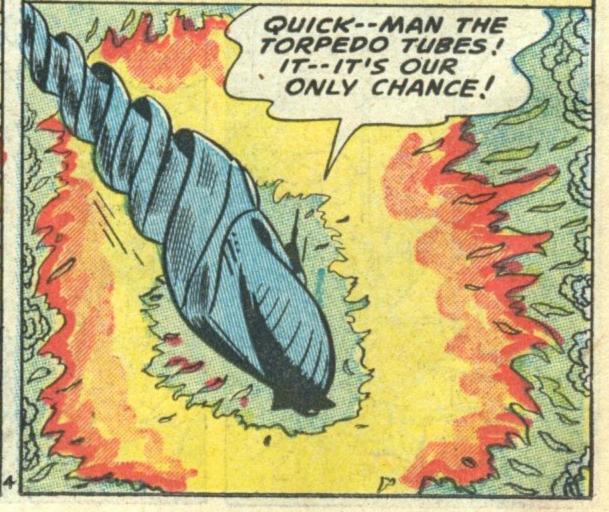
THESE WERE THINGS SUCH AS THE MEN FROM THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH HAD NEVER SEEN... BEINGS FROM OUT OF A WEIRD DREAM! THEY SEEMED HALF HUMAN, HALF FISH AS THEY SWARMED TOWARDS THE SUBMARINE...



BUT YOU'RE WRONG, BILL BATTLE! KEEP YOUR EYE ON THESE ODD CREATURES! THEY'VE SWUM BACK OUT OF RANGE NOW, BUT IT ISN'T RETREAT! LOOK...THEY'RE JOINING HANDS, RINGING THE ATOMIC SUB! AND NOW THEY'RE MOVING IN...AND THE FLAMES WHICH SURROUND THEIR BODIES HAVE FANNED OUT DANGEROUSLY!



CLOSER...CLOSER...AND AS THE CIRCLE GREW SMALLER, THE FIRE GREW IN INTENSITY! IT WAS A SOLID WALL NOW, THROUGH WHICH THE BODIES OF THE ATTACKERS COULD BE SEEN BUT DIMLY! THE OBJECT WAS PLAIN...THE VISITORS FROM ABOVE WERE TO BE BURNED TO A CRISP!

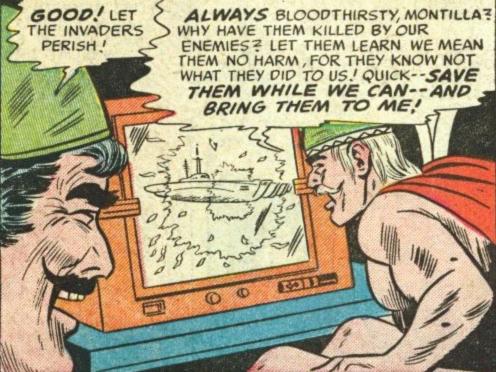


AROUND THEM, THE WATER SEETHED AND BUBBLED...AND THE SUBMARINE'S PLATES HISSED AT RED HEAT! THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS HAD PREPARED FOR MID-EARTH TEMPERATURES BY INSTALLING SPECIAL REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT...BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS HAD BEEN EXPECTED!

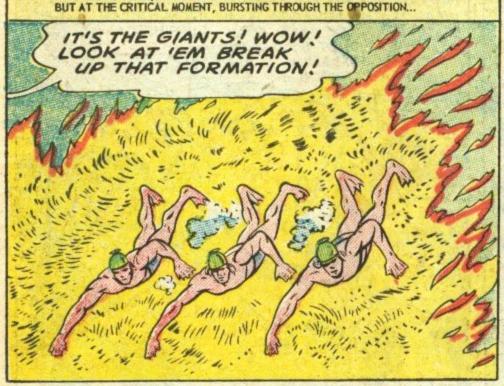


THEY DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN, BUT OTHER EYES WERE WITNESSING THE STRANGE COMBAT!
A FATEFUL DECISION WAS BEING PASSED...A DECISION WHICH CHANGED THE SHAPE OF
HUMAN HISTORY!

ALWAYS BLOODTHIRSTY, MONTILLA?
THE INVADERS
WHY HAVE THEM KILLED BY OUR



MEANWHILE, THE ATOMIC SUB FOUGHT BRAYELY...BUT THE CAUSE SEEMED HOPELESS! AGAIN AND AGAIN THE DEFENDERS FIRED THROUGH THE ENCIR-CLING WALL OF FLAME...BUT FOR EVERY FIRE CREATURE THAT WAS BLASTED INTO NOTHINGNESS, TWO MORE SWARMED IN THE SITUATION WAS DESPERATE... BUT AT THE CRITICAL MOMENT, BURSTING THROUGH THE OPPOSITION...



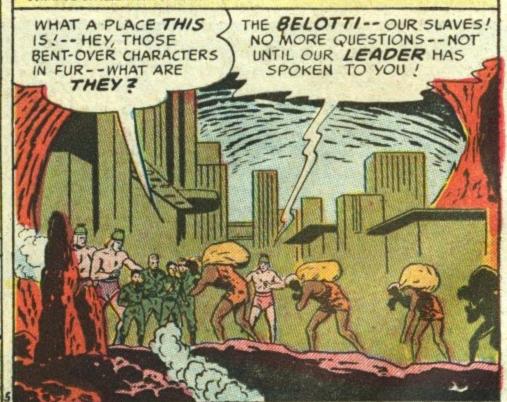
NOW THE FLAMES DIED DOWN...BECAUSE THESE ALMOST HUMAN FIRE-FISH KNEW THEY COULD DO NO GOOD AGAINST THEIR HUGE ANTAGONISTS! THE STRUGGLE WAS BRIEF...AND FOR ONE SIDE... FATAL!



THE BATTLE OVER, THE GIANTS TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO THE ATOMIC SUB, HERDING IT THROUGH THE DEPTHS...PRISONER OF A FRIENDLY FOE!



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THEY REACHED SHORE... A STRANGE SHORE, ON WHICH A STRANGE CIVILIZATION STOOD...





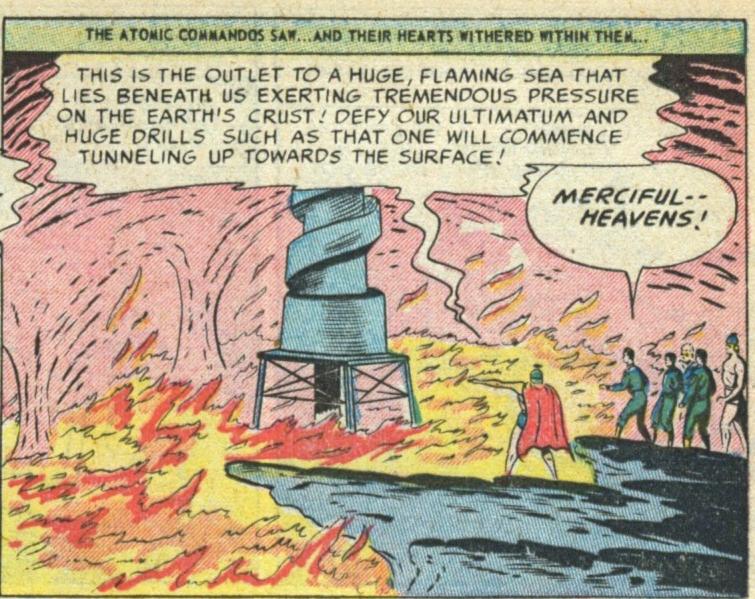
YOUR ULTI-

WE MIGHT

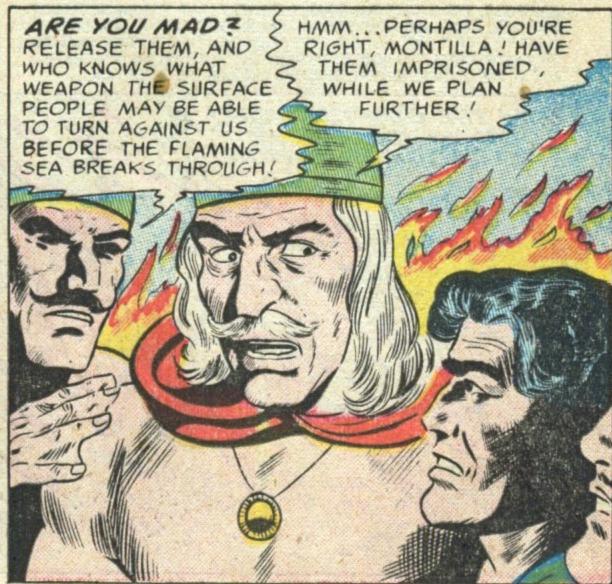
PERISH!

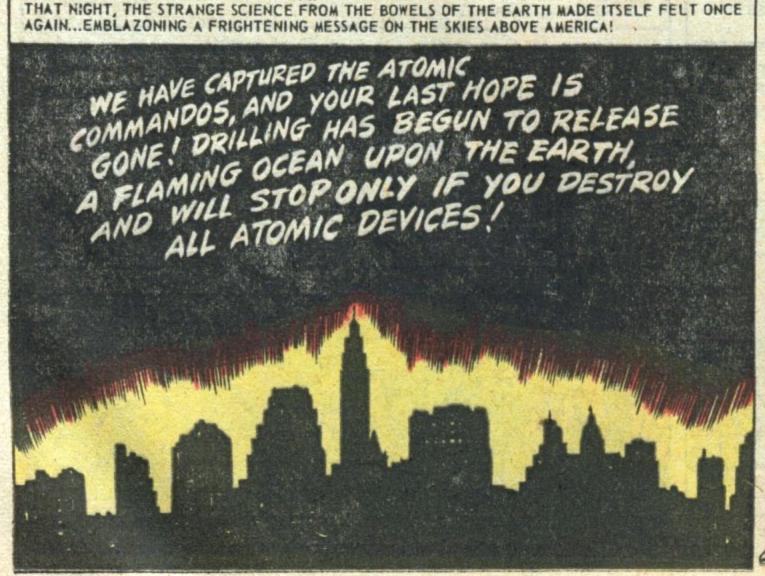
WE HAD HOPED NOT TO POTENT METHODS, BUT IF IT'S OUR SURVIVAL MATUM! ATOMIC THAT'S AT STAKE --WEAPONS ARE LET ME SHOW OUR DEFENSE ... YOU WHAT WE WITHOUT THEM,













ONE LAST CHANCE! BUT AS THE DESTINY-LADEN MOMENTS PASSED, THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE MUCH THAT THE ATOMIC COM-MANDOS COULD DO TO SAVE A DOOMED WORLD...

AND HERE
WE ARE...
PRISONERS...
AND I CAN'T
BREAK
THESE
CONFOUNDED
CHAINS'

THEM SAYING
THEY'VE GOT OUR
KIDNAPPED
LEADERS ON A
FORTRESS ISLAND-MUST BE THAT
ONE OUT THERE!

HOLD IT! I'M
SUPPOSED TO BE THE
ESCAPE ARTIST AROUND
HERE -- ANYBODY GOT
A WIRE?
HERE'S
A GOLD
TOOTHPICK!

THE LOCKS WERE FOOLPROOF...BUT THIS WAY TONY GARDELLO, NOTED CIRCUSES. CAPE ARTIST WHOSE EXPLOITS RIVALED HOUDINI'S! INTENTLY, PATIENTLY HE WORKED...UNTIL...



THE LOCKS ON THE CELL DOOR WERE MULTIPLE AND INTRICATE...BUT THEY, TOO, OPENED BEFORE THE MAGIC OF HIS SKILLED FINGERS! DOWN A CORRIDOR THEY CREPT...ONLY TO FIND THE ROUTE TO FREEDOM CUT OFF!

NOW WHAT? EVEN SEE THIS? IT'S THE
IF WE COULD LATEST HUSH-HUSH
FIGHT OUR WAY WEAPON THE
OUT, THE NOISE SECRET SERVICE IS
WOULD BRING USING -- A SUPERTHE WHOLE POWER ANESTHETIC
SHEBANG DOWN CAPSULE! WATCH
ON OUR
HEADS!



CAREFULLY, COMMANDER BILL BATTLE TOSSED THE SMALL OBJECT!
YOU COULD HARDLY HEAR THE SOFT IMPACT OF ITS EXPLOSION...
BUT AS THE STREAMERS OF PUNGENT VAPOR FANNED OUT, THE GIANTS CLUTCHED AT THEIR THROATS...AND FELL!



THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS THOUGHT THE WAY WAS CLEAR NOW...ONLY TO FIND STILL ANOTHER IMPEDIMENT TO ESCAPE! IT WAS MONTILLA, CAPTAIN OF THE ROYAL GUARD, CHOSING THIS ILL-FATED MOMENT FOR HIS ENTRANCE! HE MET CHAMP'S CHARGE WITH THE STRANGE DOUBLE RAY WHICH THESE CENTER-OF-THE-EARTH GIANTS COULD SUMMON FROM THEIR EYES..AND CHAMP STAGGERED BEFORE THE RESULTANT BRAIN-SHOCK...



BUT EACH OF THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS WAS A SPECIALIST...AND CHAMP'S SPECIALTY WAS STRENGTH! THE RAY HAD HIT HIM BUT GLANCINGLY...BUT IT STILL TOOK ALL OF HIS MIGHTY POWER TO RECOVER, PLUNGE TO THE ATTACK! HE SUMMONED EVERY SINEW FOR THE TERRIFIC BLOW HE STRUCK, AND IT BLASTED MONTILLA DOWN...AND OUT!



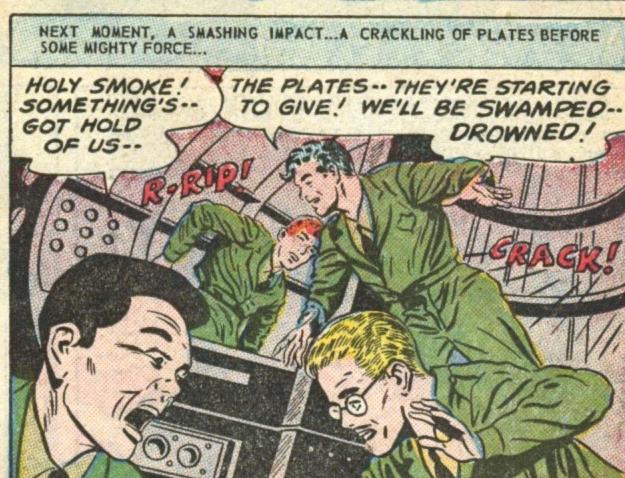
THEY FOUND THE ATOMIC SUB UNGUARDED AND SWARMED ABOARD! DESTINATION...THE FORTRESS ISLAND WHERE THE KIDNAPPED MEN WERE BEING HELD!

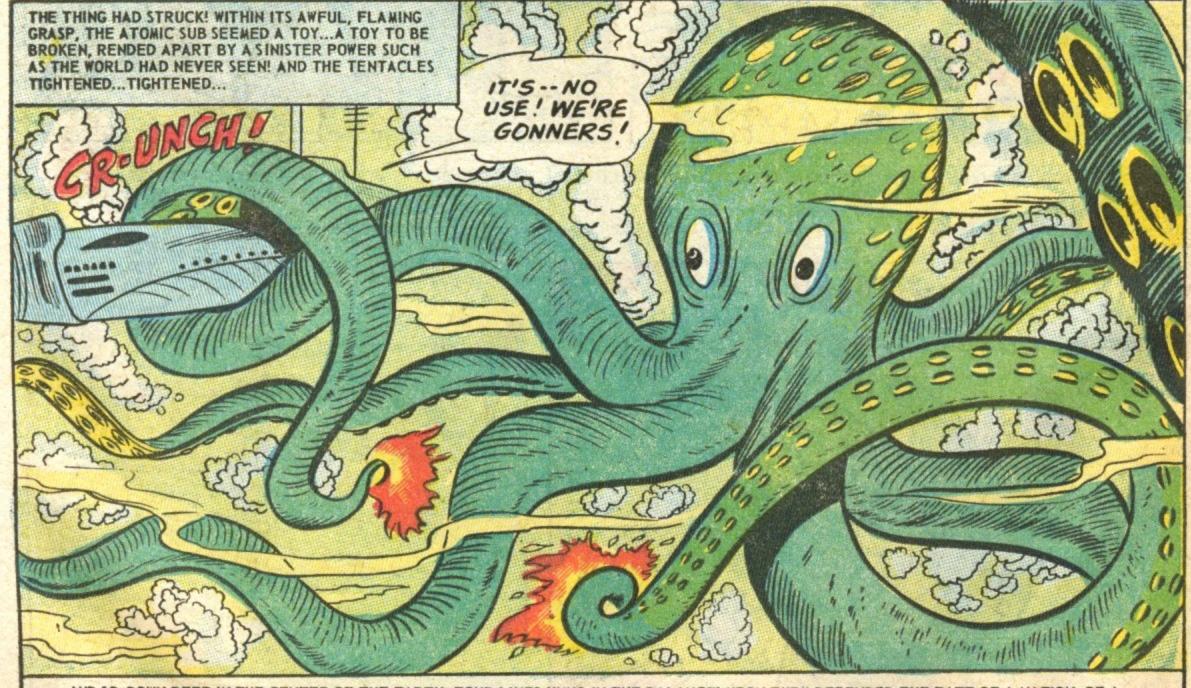


IT SEEMED SIMPLE, THIS IDEA OF A SURPRISE ONSET WHICH WOULD LIBERATE THE KIDNAPPED AMERICANS! BUT THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE WAY TO THE ISLAND WAS BARRED BY AN AWFUL DEFENDER...BY A GIGANTIC NIGHTMARE CREATURE THAT STAGGERED THE IMAGINATION! THEY DIDN'T SEE IT AS IT ROSE FROM THE DEPTHS BEHIND THEM, FLARING TENTACLES READY TO POUNCE,









AND SO, DOWN DEEP IN THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, FOUR LIVES HUNG IN THE BALANCE! UPON THEM DEPENDED THE FATE OF A NATION, OF A WORLD! IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'S A CHANCE FOR THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS...BUT FOR THE SURPRISE OF A LIFETIME, SEE THE NEXT IN STALLMENT OF THIS THRILL-A-SECOND CHILLER...COMPLETE IN THIS VERY ISSUE!

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NAME

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WELLOAX BACKFIRED!

IN many ways, the Secret Service is just I like any other large organization. For one thing, its personnel enjoys "hazing" new recruits, and of all fledgling workers, none was greener or more innocent than Carl Farnum. That's why there was much suppressed merriment, peering through the door and eavesdropping when Johnnie Andrews, practical joker and veteran in the bureau, summoned him to his office. Poor Carl didn't even know that Johnnie didn't have the right to hand out assignments. Just back from two years in Korea, there was much he didn't know about people and things on the current scene. He just listened respectfully as Johnnie spoke-and agreed. "You're assigned to guard a Mr. William Battle," Johnnie began. "He's got a little something to do with that atomic submarine you may have heard about. Strictly administrative, of course—but the guy is an incompetent, practically needs a nursemaid! A softy, too-scared of his own shadow! You've got to watch out for him, and see that nobody picks on him, or steals anything from him! Just report aboard the submarine, tell him you've come to take over -and don't take any back talk!"

And so innocent, green Carl Farnum left on his job, and the whole bureau rocked with laughter. Imagine a sap like Farnum who didn't know that Commander Bill Battle was a fighting fool and had himself been one of the greatest Secret Service operatives in history—that he was skipper of the Atomic Sub and leader of that great task force, the Atomic Commandos! Dopey Farnum would barge on board, run headlong into Commander Bill and get his ears roasted off for him! Oh, it would be a wonderful joke!

Let's see how much of a joke it was. It was night as Carl approached the government dock at which the Atomic Sub was moored. He approached the gate at which two burly sailors were on guard, and presented his credentials. Suddenly he caught a movement out of the corner of his eye, and whirled just as one of the sailors brought down a blackjack viciously. Combat experience, which had almost become second nature with him in Korea, took over. Dodging fast, he whipped over a terrific blow to the jaw that stretched out his attacker, dead to the world—then spun to meet the onset of the second man. This time it was a fast jiu jitsu

tactic, with victory assured as his victim's head cracked sickeningly into a wooden piling.

Carl Farnum may have been green, but he was no fool, because the Secret Service doesn't take fools. Obviously, the two sailors had been impostors, which meant that a plot was afoot against the Atomic Submarine and its military secrets—a plot which was even then in progress! Silently, he crept aboard. That blaze of light-there was something doing in there. Peering in cautiously, he saw six men-and a seventh, dark, lithe and brawny, but bearing the marks of a terrific manhandling. The leader of the six men held a gun on him. "Quite a fight you put up," he was sneering, "but it didn't do much good, did it? It's not going to stop us from dismantling the atomic motivator which is the heart of this submarine—and taking it to the-er-proper parties! But before that, there's a special bonus in it for us if we get rid of the man who's meant so much to America's fighting plans-you! So-here goes!"

He raised his gun-and Carl chose this moment to swarm into action. He entered like a bolt from the blue, striking down the would be assassin with a blow of his gunbutt, As the man's pistol dropped from his nerveless grasp, Carl was gratified to see the intended victim pounce upon it like a cat. Then the two men turned to meet the charge of the others, using guns and fists in a terrific battle for survival. And, as he fought, Carl was conscious of the fact that he'd never seen a man who handled himself with the catlike strength and deadly striking power of his companion. The fight was over soon-victoriously! As the two men faced each other and smiled, Carl mopped his brow. "Whew!" he murmured. "All this before I even get onto the job I was assigned to! Tell me, do you know where I can find a scared softy named-what was it-oh, yes! William Battle! I'm supposed to protect him!"

"I'm him!" smiled Commander Bill Battle. It hit the Secret Service Bureau like an earthquake. Can you imagine—a green rookie like Carl Farnum—hardly comes on the job when he's promoted—right over the heads of veterans like Johnnie Andrews! And Andrews, practical joker that he was, needed all his humor to swallow that one!

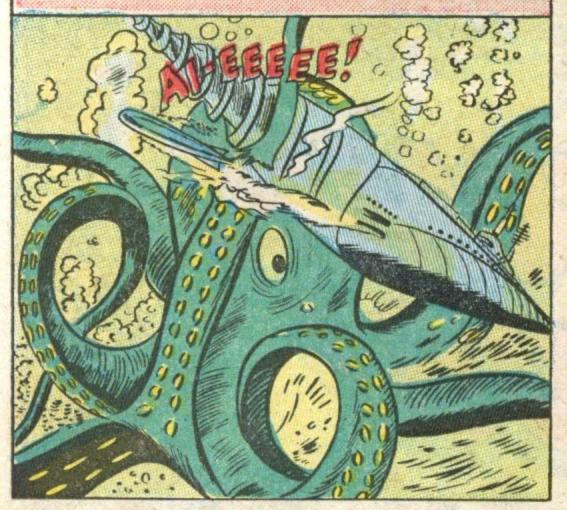


GRIPPED THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS IN A GRIM TRAP FROM WHICH ESCAPE SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE! IN A MOMENT, BENEATH THE TIGHTENING TENTACLES, THE HULL MUST SHATTER ...





A HISS OF COMPRESSED AIR...AND A TORPEDO SHOT FROM THE TUBE, RIPPING AWAY ONE OF THE MONSTROUS TENTACLES! THERE WAS A BUBBLING SHRIEK OF PAIN...AND THE OCTOPUS RELEASED ITS PREY!



SWIFTLY THE ATOMIC SUB GLIDED AWAY, THEN TURNED...AND HOVERING MOTIONLESSLY, AWAITED THE CHARGE OF THE MADDENED CREATURE! AND AS IT SWARMED TO THE ATTACK, AGAIN CAME THAT SUSTAINED HISS...AND A SECOND TORPEDO...



BUT NOW THE PROJECTILE WAS TIMED FOR SHORT-RANGE DETONATION! IT HIT SQUARELY... BLOWING THE MONSTER TO BITS!



WELL--THERE GOES
OUR IDEA OF PULLING
A SURPRISE RAID TO
RELEASE OUR KIDNAPPED
MEN THEY'RE HOLDING!
THAT UNDERWATER
EXPLOSION WILL HAVE
ALERTED EVERYONE ON
THE ISLAND!

RIGHT, DOC--BUT I'VE
GOT AN IDEA! REMEMBER THE BELOTTI-THE GIANTS' SLAVES?
THEY'D BE HUMAN
SIZE IF THEY EVER
STRAIGHTENED UP--AND
THOSE FURS THEY WEAR
PRETTY MUCH HIDE
THEIR APPEARANCE! GET



RUSH TRIP BACK TO THE MAINLAND, GRAB OFF SOME OF THOSE BELOTTI CHARACTERS, TIE 'EM UP, GRAB THEIR CLOTHES AND THEN SLIP ASHORE ON THE ISLAND, DISGUISED AS THEM!



OUGHT TO BE SOME-THING IN OUR MEDICAL SUPPLIES THAT'LL DO THE JOB! NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE...AND AS THE DARING PLAN PROGRESSED...

THIS WAS A SMART
IDEA OF YOURS, DOC-POLAROID GOGGLES
TO HELP AVERT THE
POWER OF THOSE
BEAMS THE GIANTS
SHOOT FROM THEIR
EYES! WE'VE LEARNED
THAT THE BEAMS HAVE
TO HIT OUR EYES TO
GET IN THE BRAIN
SHOCK THAT THEY
PACK!

BUT WE'LL
NEED WEAPONS
TOO, BILLAND REGULAR
GUNS ARE TOO
NOISY! WAIT A
MOMENT AND
I'LL SHOW YOU
SOMETHING---



THEY DON'T HAVE WHY, THESE MUST BE THE ELECTRIC 4 TO BE! I WANTED BOLT GUNS YOU SOMETHING SILENT, THAT WERE EXPERIMENTING) WITH! BUT DOC --COULD SHOCK THEY'RE NOT ANY ENEMY THAT LETHAL --DISCOVERS US INTO INSENSIBILITY! THIS IS IT!

IT WAS A DARING CHANCE, BUT THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS TOOK IT!
ARMED ONLY WITH POLAROID GLASSES AND SMALL ELECTRIC GUNS,
THEY CREPT ASHORE ON THE FORTRESS ISLAND UNDER COVER OF
DARKNESS! WOULD THEY...COULD THEY...SUCCEED?



THE SLIGHTEST FLICKER OF SUSPICION, AND THE BRAZEN PLAN WOULD COME CRASHING DOWN ABOUT THEIR EARS! IT WAS A BREATHLESS MOMENT...



THEY WERE IN NOW...SAFELY! THE NEXT STEP WAS TO LOCATE WHERE THE PRISONERS WERE BEING KEPT! IT PROVED





LET'S GO, COMMANDOS!

THE KIDNAPPED HOSTAGES DIDN'T REALIZE THAT DELIVERANCE WAS NEAR WHEN THE FUR-CLAD, FIERCE-LOOKING CREATURES RAN INTO THEIR MIDST...



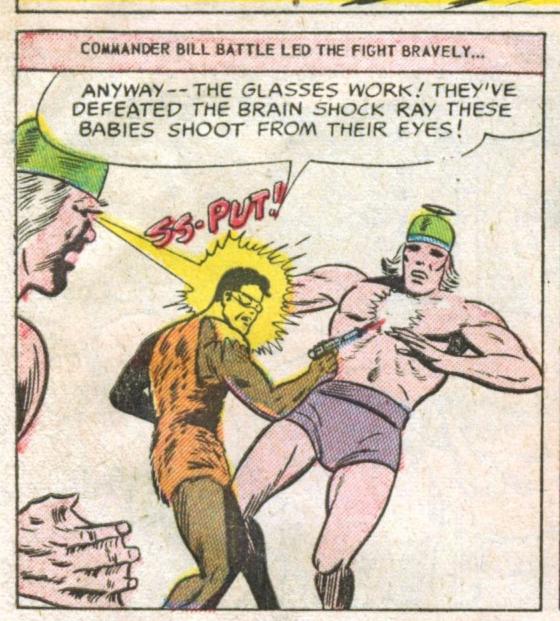
BUT NOW FATE INTERVENED
WITH THE UNEXPECTED! ONE
OF THE GUARDS BLASTED BY
THE ELECTRIC BOLT GUNS HAD
RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS...
AND HIS CALL FOR HELP WENT
OUT IN THE FORM OF A
SUMMONING ROCKET!



THING WAS AMISS! THEY WERE STILL DRGANIZING THE ESCAPE EFFORT
WHEN ENEMY REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED...

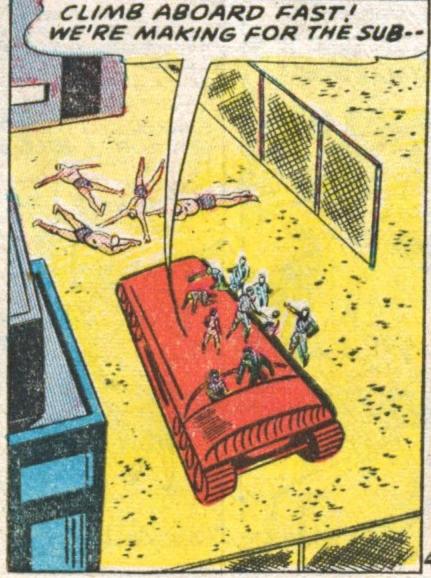
HURRY! FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG-AND KEEP YOUR WEAPONS ON THE READY!













(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

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TOP SPEED...PLUS THE ELECTRIC BOLT GUNS...WON THE WAY BACK TO THE ATOMIC SUB! THE KIDNAPPED HOSTAGES ABOARD, THEY WADE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE MOLTEN WATERS! AND THEN THE TELEVISION SCREEN PICKED UP AN OMINOUS MESSAGE! THERE WAS NO FREEDOM YET, NOR COULD THERE EVER BE!

TO YOU ABOARD THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE -- WE

OMINOUS WORDS...TRUE WORDS! A MIGHTY SOURCE OF POWER, KNOWN ONLY TO THESE STRANGE GIANTS, MOTIVATED THE GIGANTIC DRILLS...AND NOW THEY HAD BEEN STEPPED UP, UP...EATING THROUGH THE EARTH'S CRUST AT BLINDING SPEED...

KNOW THAT YOU HAVE RESCUED YOUR COUNTRYMEN! BUT WILL YOU HAVE A WORLD LEFT TO
TAKE THEM TO? I HAVE ORDERED OUR DRILLS
INCREASED TO MAXIMUM SPEED! THEY ARE
NEARING A BREAKNEARING A BREAKMOMENTARILY, A
R FLAMING SEA WILL
SWEEP OVER THE
EARTH'S SURFACE!



ALREADY, IN THE THINNER SPOTS, THE HEAT AND HORROR FROM BELOW WERE BECOMING MANIFEST...THROUGH THE CRATERS OF LONG-EXTINCT VOL CANOES...

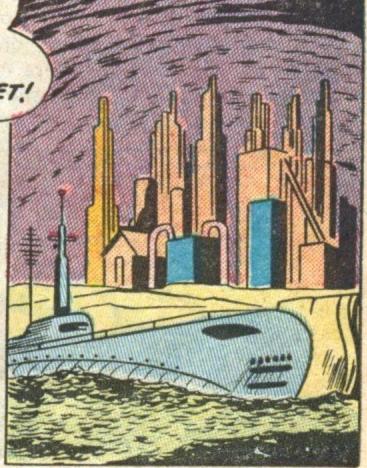


AND WITHIN THE ATOMIC SUB, DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH, A GRIM COUNCIL OF WAR HAD CONCLUDED...

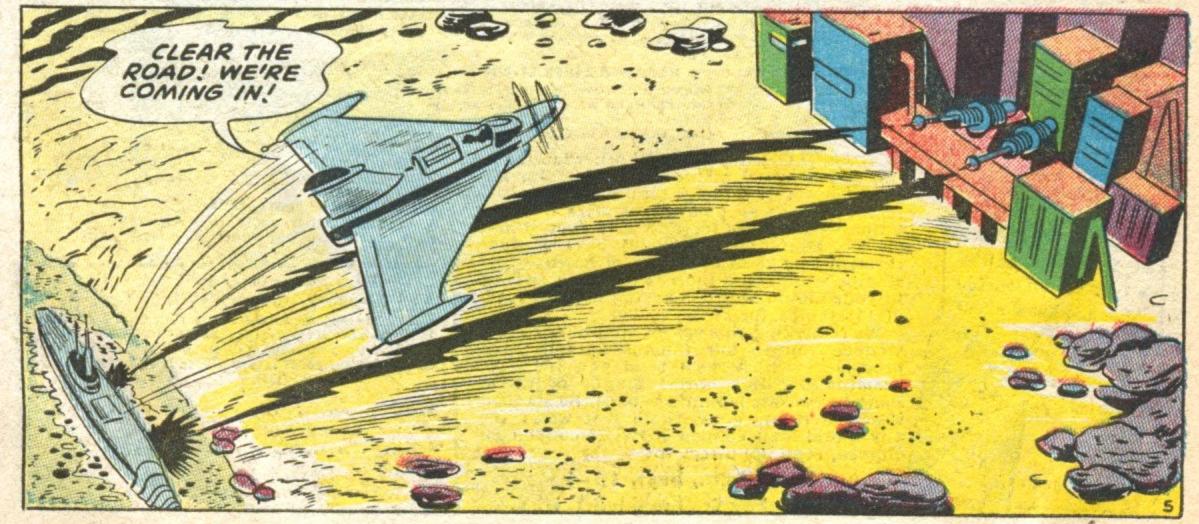
OKAY, THEN--THE THE POWER FROM THOSE DRILLS MUST THOSE DRILLS MUST STEM FROM THAT BIG POWERHOUSE AND THAT MEANS ON THE MAINLAND! THAT'S OUR TOP



THE PREPARATIONS WERE QUICKLY MADE!
THERE WAS NO THOUGHT OF HIDING OR
SECRECY NOW! THE GREAT SUBMARINE
SURFACED...FOR BATTLE!

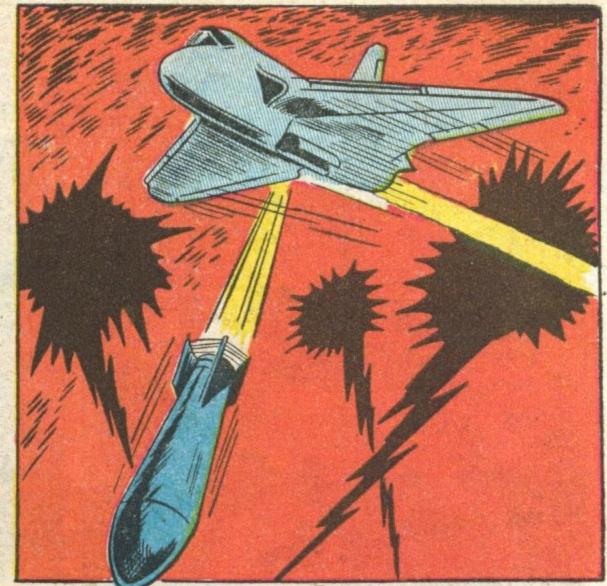


THE GIANTS WERE QUICK TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE! WITHIN MOMENTS, THEY HAD OPENED UP WITH A TREMENDOUS BARRAGE... THEIR WEIRD BLACK RAYS PROBING EVERYWHERE, REPEATEDLY HOMING ON THE TOUGH HIDE OF THE ATOM SUB! IMPACT AFTER IMPACT RENDED THE AIR... AS THE SPEEDY ATOM PLANE, WITH COMMANDER BILL BATTLE AT THE CONTROLS, ROARED UPWARDS!



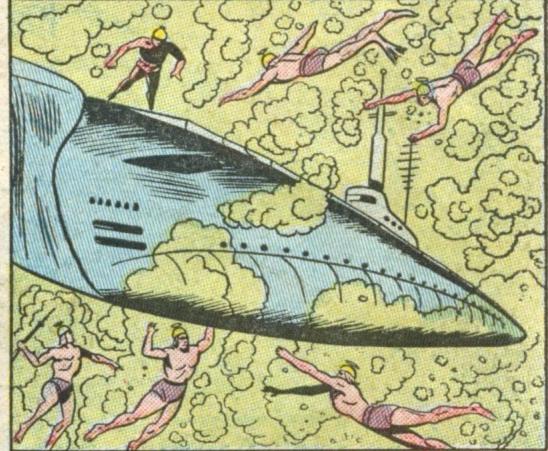
THEY WERE OVER THE TARGET NOW, THREADING THEIR WAY AMID A SCREAMING BARRAGE! IT DIDN'T LOOK AS IF THEY COULD MAKE IT... BUT BILL BATTLE STUCK GRIMLY TO HIS PERILOUS COURSE...







WITH THAT ROARING EXPLOSION, THE POWERHOUSE CEASED TO BE! THE HUGE DRILLS WERE SILENT NOW, AS BILL AND TONY RETURNED TO THE ATOMIC SUB! QUICKLY THEY SUBMERGED IN A DESPERATE EFFORT FOR ESCAPE...BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! FROM EVERY SIDE, THE MADDENED GIANTS SWARMED TO THE ATTACK!

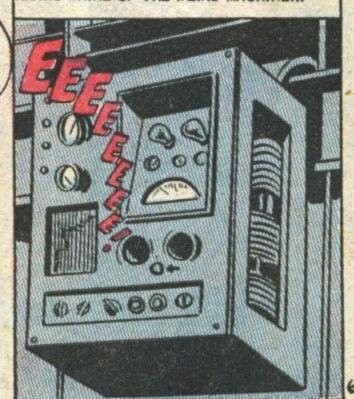


THEY--THEY'RE
COMING FROM
EVERYWHERE-AND ENOUGH
OF 'EM TO
TEAR US
APART!
AND THERE'S
NOTHING WE
CAN DO--WE
CAN'T GET
THEM WITH
TORPEDOES--

ARE YOU FORGETTING THIS
SPECIAL LITTLE
GADGET I INSTALLED--THE
THING I SAID
MIGHT TURN
OUT TO BE THE
SAVING OF US
ALL? WELL-IT'S TIME
TO BREAK
IT OUT NOW!

De la contraction de la contra

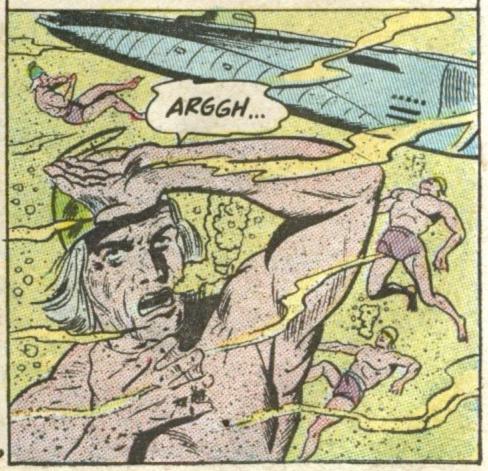
WHAT MANNER OF STRANGE DEVICE COULD THIS BE, THIS COLLECTION OF DIALS, WIRES AND TUBES THAT MIGHT SPELL SALVATION FOR THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS? THERE WAS NOT TIME TO SPECULATE NOW... ALREADY, THE RENDING HANDS OF THE GIANT ENEMY TORE AT THE SUBMARINE'S HULL! BUT NOW, THE POUNDING FROM OUTSIDE WAS DROWNED OUT BY THE RISING WHINE OF THE WEIRD MACHINE...



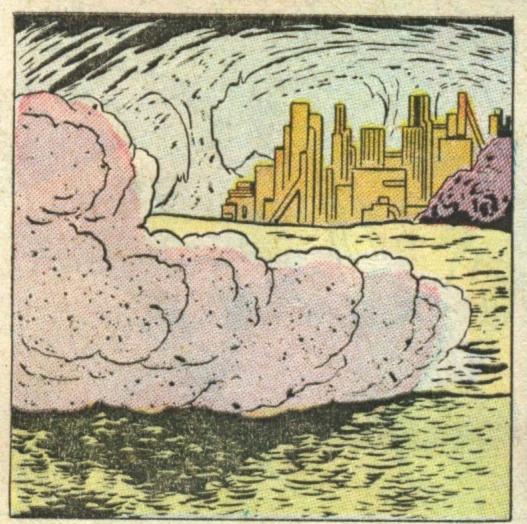
AND IN THE WATER WHICH SURROUNDED THE SUB...A

STRANGE PHENOMENON! BILLIONS OF TINY, SWARMING
PARTICLES, UNITING IN A SMOKEY CLOUD...A

RADIOACTIVE CLOUD! THIS WAS ATOMIC ENERGY ON THE
LOOSE...AND BEFORE IT, THE GIANT ATTACKERS FELL
BACK, CLUTCHED AT THEIR THROATS...AND DIED!



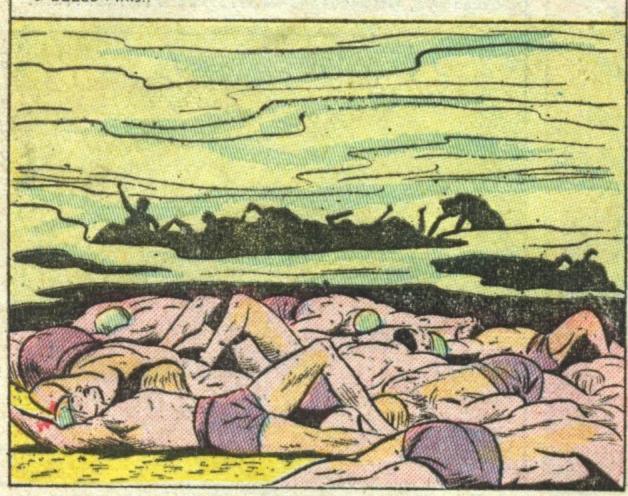
IT WAS FANNING OUT OF THE WATER NOW, IN A HUGE AND EVER-GROWING MIST... DRIFTING OMINOUSLY TOWARDS THE MAINLAND! AND IN EVERY PARTICLE, THERE WAS... DEATH!



HERE IT WAS, THE THING WHICH THE GIANTS SO DREADED... THE ONE THING BEFORE WHICH THEIR HUGE STRENGTH AVAILED THEM LITTLE! ATOMIC POWER... BREAKING DOWN THEIR BODY CELLS... TOUCHING OFF INTERNAL FIRE...



AND SO IT CAME TO AN END, THIS CIVILIZATION OF TITANS AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH... FOR NOW, NOT A SINGLE ONE WAS LEFT ALIVE! LET IT BE SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT EVIL! DESTINY HAD WILLED IT THAT THEY CROSS MAN'S PATH...AND THAT ONLY ONE RACE OR THE OTHER SURVIVE! THIS SPELLED FINIS...



FOR THE ATOMIC SUB, THERE WAS THE RETURN TRIP UP THROUGH THE EARTH'S CRUST AND OUT OF THE UNDERWATER CRATER...



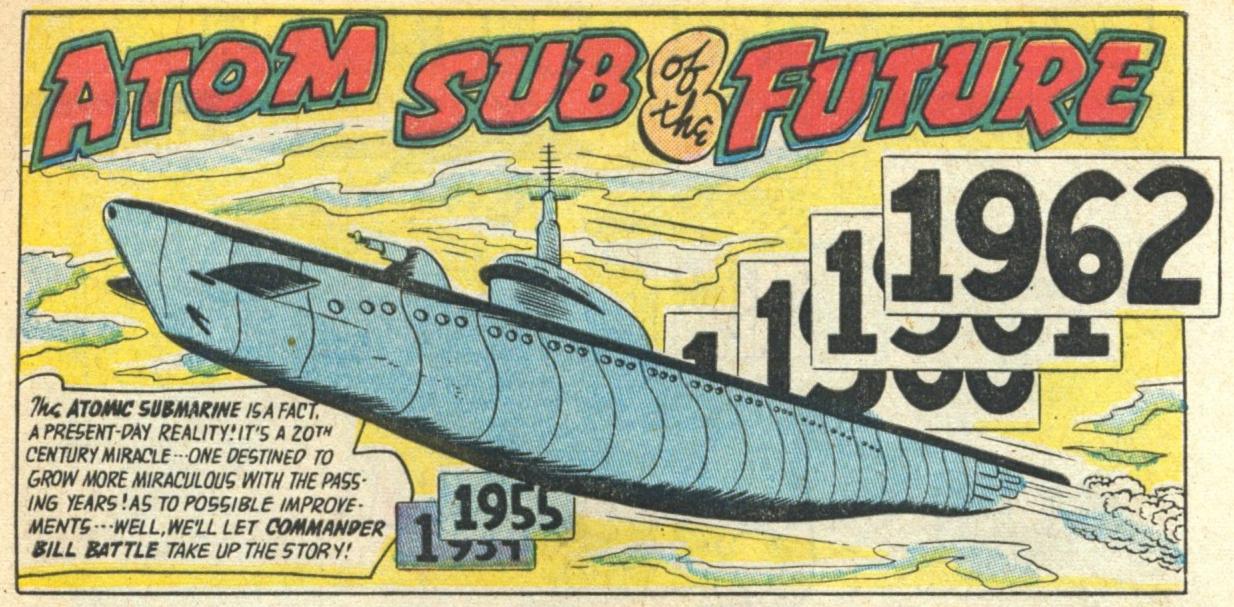
... A RETURN IN TRIUMPH ... AS CHEERING CROWDS WELCOMED THE ATOMIC COMMANDOS WHO HAD SAVED THEM!



YES, THERE IS A WORLD... YOUR WORLD AND MINE! BUT THE PRICE OF SECURITY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE... AND DANGER MAY STRIKE FROM ANY QUARTER! EVEN NOW, AN AWFUL MENACE LOOMS, A MENACE SO DEADLY, SO AMAZING, THAT YOU'LL BE CHILLED TO THE MARROW! ONCE AGAIN, YOU'LL MEET THEM...IN A THRILLING, ALL-OUT FIGHT TO THE FINISH...



... AIDED BY A NEW, EXCITING MYSTERY CHARACTER! YOU'LL NEVER GUESS THE IDENTITY OF THIS LATEST ATOMIC COMMANDO... UNTIL YOU MEET HIM FOR YOURSELF IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!



THAT GREAT AMERICAN WEAPON
WHICH IS CLOSEST TO MY HEART

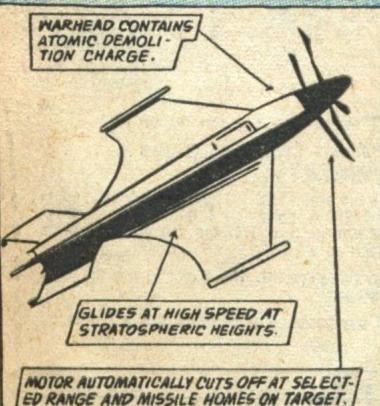
"THE ATOMIC SUB! IT'S THE
WEAPON NOT ONLY OF TODAY, BUT
TOMORROW AS WELL! ALREADY,
MANY CHANGES ARE ON THE
DRAWING BOARDS! FOR
INSTANCE...



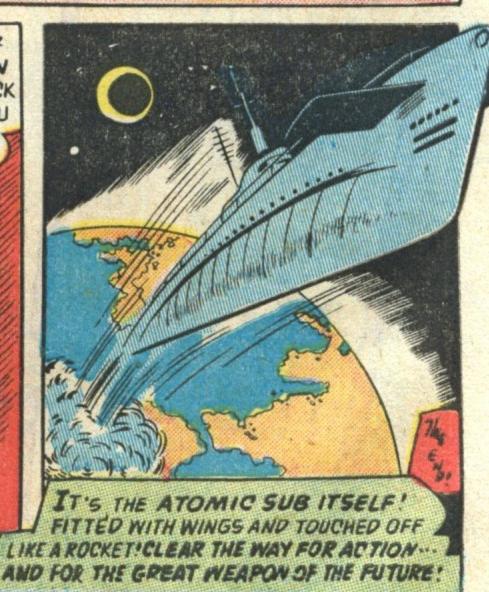


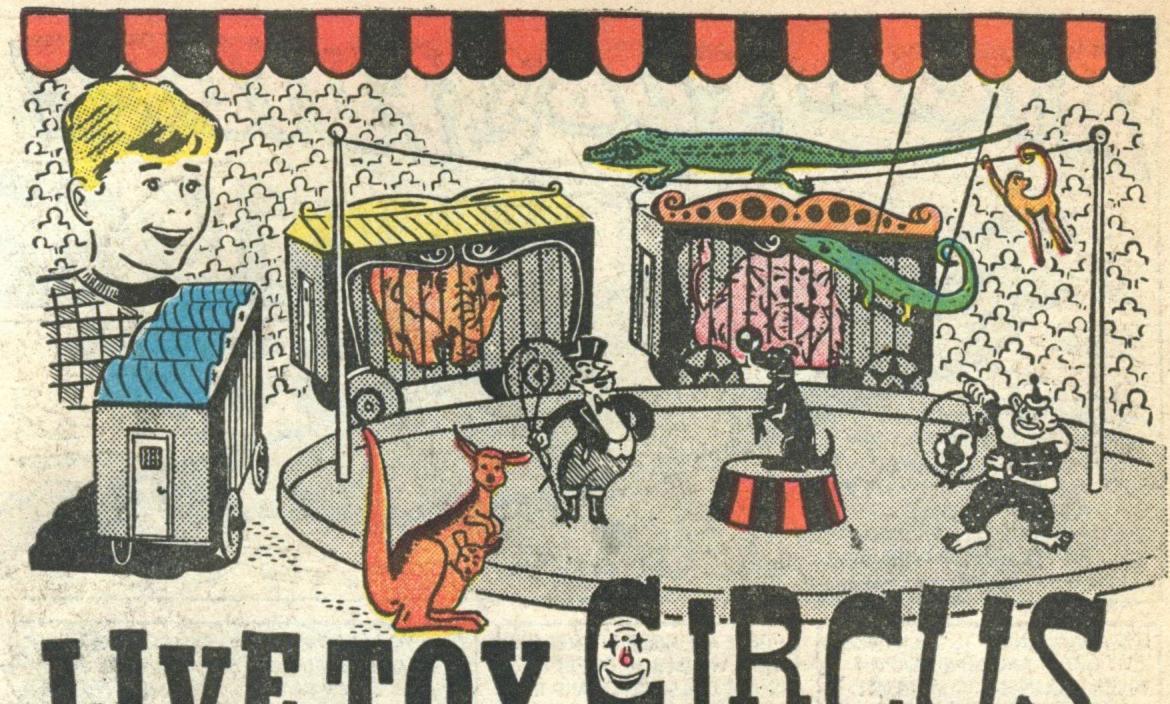


NOW, HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING!
NOT AS MUCH AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE
ATOM SUB AS AN ADVANCE IN ITS ARMAMENT!IT'S A GUIDED MISSILE FOR
SUBMARINE USE! EFFECTIVE RANGE
300 MILES! ACCURACY: AMAZING!









With Performing CHAMELEON -- FREE!

Now, - for the first time ever - you can have a real live circus of your own. Just dozens of fine toys, each wonderful in itself, make up this circus set for the "Greatest Show on Earth." You and your friends can have hours of fun setting up the props for the circus, placing the Ringmaster, clowns, performing animals, and wild animal cages for the many exciting acts. You can even put on a real live trained animal act with the live, performing chameleon who will walk a tight rope, swing on a trapeze and change color right before your eyes from bright green to brown and back again.

Just look at all the things you get for only \$1.00. Big Circus Ring, Wild Animal Cages, colorful plastic animals, Kangaroo with baby in pouch, clowns, Ringmaster, Chameleon Leash and Halter, Performing Platform, Tight Rope and Poles, Trapeze, 27 Wonderful pieces in all PLUS -FREE - THE LIVE PERFORMING CHAMELEON, who will not only act in your circus but will make a fine pet too.

Order today at our risk. If you are not satisfied that here is the best toy — the most fun ever — then just return it after 10 days free trial for a full refund of the purchase price - and keep the Chameleon as our gift to you.

only





DOYOU REED NOMENTO



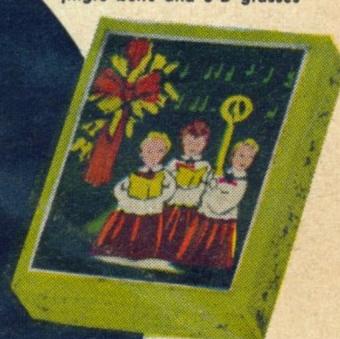
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novelty attachments—including
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religious cards
with Scripture Text
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of designs-plus

matching seals and gift tags



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